

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraph [0002] with the following amended paragraph:

In many injection molding ~~apparatuses~~ apparatus, a valve pin is used to open and close a gate into a mold cavity in order to control the melt flow into the mold cavity. Depending on the layout constraints in the injection molding apparatus, it can be desirable to provide an actuating mechanism for the valve pin, that extends laterally to the valve pin.

Please replace paragraph [0016] with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 9 is a side view of the valve pin actuating mechanism shown in Figure 2, having an alternative stop, ~~to that~~ shown in an enlarged view in Figure 9a [[2]]; and

Please replace paragraph [0042] with the following amended paragraph:

Reference is made to Figure 2. The actuator 38 may be any type of actuator, such as a pneumatic or hydraulic cylinder, or alternatively an electrical actuator. As shown, the actuator may be, for example, a linear, hydraulic actuator. Actuator 38 includes a connector 104 for rotatably connecting actuator 38 to the connector 58 on the linkage element 36. The connector 104 [[58]] may be any suitable type of connector, such as, for example, a pin 106, which is received in the aperture 60.

Please replace paragraph [0044] with the following amended paragraph:

During the cavity-filling portion of an injection cycle, the valve pin 30 is in the 'open' position (Figure 2 [[3]]). Melt flows from a melt source (not shown) through the inlet 18, through melt passages 20 and 25, through gates 22 and into the mold cavities

24. Once this is completed, the melt flow to the cavities 24 is shut off. To shut off the melt flow to the gates 22, the actuator is retracted, causing the rotation of the linkage element 36. The first engagement surface 74 engages the first receiving surface 50, moving the valve pin guiding element 34 and valve pin 30 towards the 'closed' position (Figure 3 [[2]]). As shown in Figure 3 [[2]], the movement of the valve pin 30 is stopped when the shoulder 56 on the valve pin guiding element 34 contacts the limit surface 42.

Please replace paragraph [0055] with the following amended paragraph:

While a particular embodiment of a valve pin actuating mechanism has been described ~~incorporate~~ incorporating the stops 78 and 84 [[or]] and the limit surface 80, the stops 78 and 84 and the limit surface can be used with other valve pin actuating mechanisms described in the patent literature, such as any of the mechanisms disclosed in US Patent No. 5,948,450 (Swenson *et al.*), US Patent No. 3,488,810 (Gellert) and US Patent No. 4,712,995 (Basnett) which are all hereby incorporated by reference.

Please replace paragraph [0056] with the following amended paragraph:

The stops 78 and 84 and the limit surface 80 have been described as being associated with the linkage element 36. It is alternatively possible for the stops 78 and 84 and the limit surface 80 to be built [[in to]] into the actuator 38, so as to limit the stroke of the actuator 38. For example, the stop may comprise a pin that extends into the body of the actuator 38 and engages a face on a piston inside the body of the actuator 38 to limit the stroke of the piston.